

AGENDA ITEM 8: Delta Leadership Program Presentations

Prepared by: Erik Vink

Presented by: Erik Vink

Requested Action: **Receive presentation from 2017 Delta Leadership Program participants**

Background: The Delta Leadership Program is a joint effort of the Delta Protection Commission and Delta Regional Foundation to cultivate the best in the region’s existing leadership and assist in the development of informed and energetic leaders for the Delta’s future.

The 2017 group of 12 Delta Leadership Program participants concluded their five-month program with a final seminar on May 5. Over the course of five monthly seminars, participants learned from expert panels about a range of complex issues affecting the Delta, including water, public safety, boating and recreation, Delta environment, wildlife-friendly agriculture and economic development, and took part in exercises and presentations to enhance personal leadership skills. Participants heard from both Delta interests and those outside the Delta who hold differing perspectives on some of the most controversial issues facing the region (for example, water exports).

The Program required participants to develop a community service project benefiting the Delta. Project goals focused on providing a direct benefit to the Delta and created an opportunity to form new relationships, demonstrate leadership and practice teamwork. Project topics and teams from the inaugural class are as follows:

Best of the Delta – Cindy Tiffany, Joel Burns, Ryan Elliot, Kim Glazzard, Judah Grossman, Gary Mello, David Ogilvie

Delta Heritage Experience Smartphone App – Arlene Galindo, Matthew Hemly, Bernadette Austin-Bowers, Brandie Owusu-Spencer, Cynthia Lau

Delta Leadership Program participants (see pages 2-3) will present a summary of their class project to the Commission.

Delta Leadership Program 2017

Name		City	Delta Region	Occupation / Affiliation	Delta Connections
Judah Grossman	M	Sacramento	North	Project Director, The Nature Conservancy	Manages McCormack-Williamson Tract restoration; member of Delta Protection Advisory Committee
Cindy Tiffany	F	Elk Grove	North	Assistant Manager, North Delta Water Agency and CA Central Valley Flood Control Association	Works with North Delta agriculture and Delta flood management communities; agricultural background
Gary Mello	M	Walnut Grove	North	Mello Farms (Tyler Island); CCVFCA Board of Directors	Life-long Delta resident, Rio Vista and Isleton Portuguese Club
Joel Burns	M	Herald	Central	First Vice President, Farmers and Merchants Bank of Central California	Long-term Lodi resident involved in ag production; Big Brother Big Sister volunteer
Kim Glazzard	F	Sacramento	North	North Delta C.A.R.E.S. volunteer	Works at Cal-EPA and active in community organizations (Organic Sacramento)
Matthew Hemly	M	Courtland	North	Orchard Manager, Greene and Hemly, Inc.	6th generation farmer; Board member of RD 150 and RD 349; Board Chair of CA Pear Advisory Board
David Ogilvie	M	Clarksburg	North	Vineyard Manager and Wine Director, Wilson Farms; Co-founder, Muddy Boots Winery	4th generation farmer; Clarksburg General Plan Advisory Committee member
Bernadette Austin	F	West Sacramento	North	Associate Director, UC Davis Center for Regional Change	Vice Chair of West Sacramento Planning Commission; Board member of Urban Land Institute-Sacramento
Ryan Elliott	M	Courtland	North	David J. Elliot & Son Stillwater Orchards	6th generation farmer; active member of CA Pear Advisory Board and CA Fresh Fruit Association

Name		City	Delta Region	Occupation / Affiliation	Delta Connections
Arlene Galindo	F	Stockton	East	Consultant, Entravision Communications; Tourism Ambassador, City of Stockton Chamber and Visitors Bureau	Stockton native; actively involved in Delta cultural and historical issues
Cynthia Lau	F	Stockton	East	Board member, Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs; Board member, Chinese Cultural Society of Stockton	Facilitator for Delta Asian American communities
Brandie Owusu-Spencer	M	Stockton	East	Founder and Executive Director, Empowering Young Voices	President, African American Chamber of Commerce of San Joaquin